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Annual Report
OF THE
Medical Officer of Health
FOR THE YEAR

1969

C.H. IMRIE,

T.D., M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.

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The Chairman and Councillors,

Deben Rural District Council.

Mr. Chairman,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in submitting my Annual Report for the year 1969 which has been prepared in accordance with the instructions of the Council and follows the line laid down by the Department of Health and Social Security.

The statistical material suggests that from the point of view of health the year 1969 was in no way exceptional. Notifiable disease was not unduly prominent but towards the end of the year an outbreak of influenza swept the Country and carried on over the New Year. In this outbreak the severity of the symptoms was not marked in the acute stage, but the after effects in many cases were more troublesome and continued much longer than one might expect.

The environmental state of the District was kept under review during the year and progress continued to be made in supplying the District with a satisfactory sewage system. The problems associated with the disposal of refuse also received consideration.

In general the efforts to improve the standards of hygiene and sanitation in the District were fruitful but many problems are not susceptible of an easy or rapid solution.

I would like to thank the Council and its Officers for their help, kindness and co-operation during the year.

I am,

Your Obedient Servant,

C.H. IMRIE,

Medical Officer of Health.

D E B E N R U R A L D I S T R I C T C O U N C I L

PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS

Medical Officer of Health

C.H. IMRIE, T.D., M.B.,
Ch.B., D.P.H.

Chief Public Health Inspector

A.F. WARRANDER, F.A.P.H.I.,
A.M.I.P.H.E., M.R.S.H.

Additional Public Health Inspectors

R.T.W. BEDFORD, C.R.S.I.

D.P. HALL, M.A.P.H.I.

F.E. ELLISTON, M.A.P.H.I.

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STATISTICS

Population

The estimate of the Registrar General for 1969 was 37,960. This figure is approximately 200 more than his estimate for the previous year and indicates that the slow upward trend still continues.

Live Births

The total of 510 births during the year compares well with that of previous years.

Still Births

The still births during 1969 totalled 7 which is much in line with the figure for the rest of the Country.

Infant Deaths

Infant deaths under the age of 1 year totalled 5. This represents an infantile death rate of 10 per 1000 which compares very well with the England and Wales figure of 18.

Deaths (all ages)

Deaths from all causes and at all ages totalled 377. This gives an adjusted death rate of 8.3 which is considerably lower than the rate for England and Wales.

The distribution of deaths according to cause shows a pattern not unlike that of previous years. In effect about half were due to diseases of the heart and circulation, and approximately one in five were due to malignant disease. Exact comparison is, however, difficult as the Registrar General recently instituted a revised method of classifying and recording deaths.

STATISTICS

GENERAL

Population (Registrar General's Estimate for mid. 1969)	37,960
Area of District in acres	109,308
Density of population - persons per acre	0.347
Number of inhabited houses 31.12.69	11,377
Average number of persons per house	3.3
Rateable Value of District as at 16.1.70	£1,016,595
Estimated product of Penny Rate 1969/70	£4,010

VITAL STATISTICS

Summary covering five years

	1965	1966	1967	1968	1969
Population	35,520	36,860	37,700	37,760	37,960
Live birth rate per 1,000 population	15.65	14.54	13.95	12.9	13.4
Still birth rate per 1,000 population	0.19	0.16	0.21	0.15	0.18
General death rate per 1,000 population	10.69	11.53	10.92	10.7	9.9
Infantile death rate (under 1 year) per 1,000 Live births	5.39	22.30	13.30	20.57	10.0

POPULATION

Registrar General's mid year estimates over 10 years:

1960	1961	1962	1963	1964	1965	1966	1967	1968	1969
33180	33620	34300	34730	35690	35520	36860	37700	37760	37960

LIVE BIRTHS

	Male	Female	Total
Legitimate:	256	232	488
Illegitimate:	13	9	22
			510

Live Birth Rate per 1,000 population 13.4
Live Birth Rate per 1,000 population with comparability factor 14.3
Live Birth Rate per 1,000 population England and Wales 16.3

Live Birth Rate per 1,000 population for 10 years:

1960	1961	1962	1963	1964	1965	1966	1967	1968	1969
16.33	16.29	17.23	16.38	16.75	15.65	14.54	13.95	12.9	13.4

STILL BIRTHS

	Male	Female	Total
Legitimate:	2	4	6
Illegitimate:	1	-	1
			7

Still Birth Rate per 1,000 total live and still births 14.0
Still Birth Rate per 1,000 total live and still births for England and Wales 13.0
Still Birth Rate per 1,000 population 0.18

Still Birth Rate per 1,000 population for 10 years:

1960	1961	1962	1963	1964	1965	1966	1967	1968	1969
0.27	0.14	0.14	0.25	0.11	0.19	0.16	0.21	0.15	0.18

DEATHS (all causes)

Male	Female	Total
192	185	377

DEATHS (all causes) Continued

Death Rate per 1,000 population 9.9
Death Rate per 1,000 population with comparability factor 8.3
Death Rate per 1,000 population England and Wales 11.9

Death Rate per 1,000 population for 10 years:

1960	1961	1962	1963	1964	1965	1966	1967	1968	1969
10.6	11.5	12.3	12.87	10.64	10.69	11.53	10.92	10.7	9.9

Deaths of infants under 1 year
Number of Deaths over a period of 5 years

	1965		1966		1967		1968		1969	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
Legitimate:	-	3	6	4	5	2	6	3	3	2
Illegitimate:	-	-	-	2	-	-	1	-	-	-
Totals:	-	3	6	6	5	2	7	3	3	2

Infantile Death Rate 1969

All infants per 1,000 live births 10.0
All infants per 1,000 births England and Wales 18.0
Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births 10.0

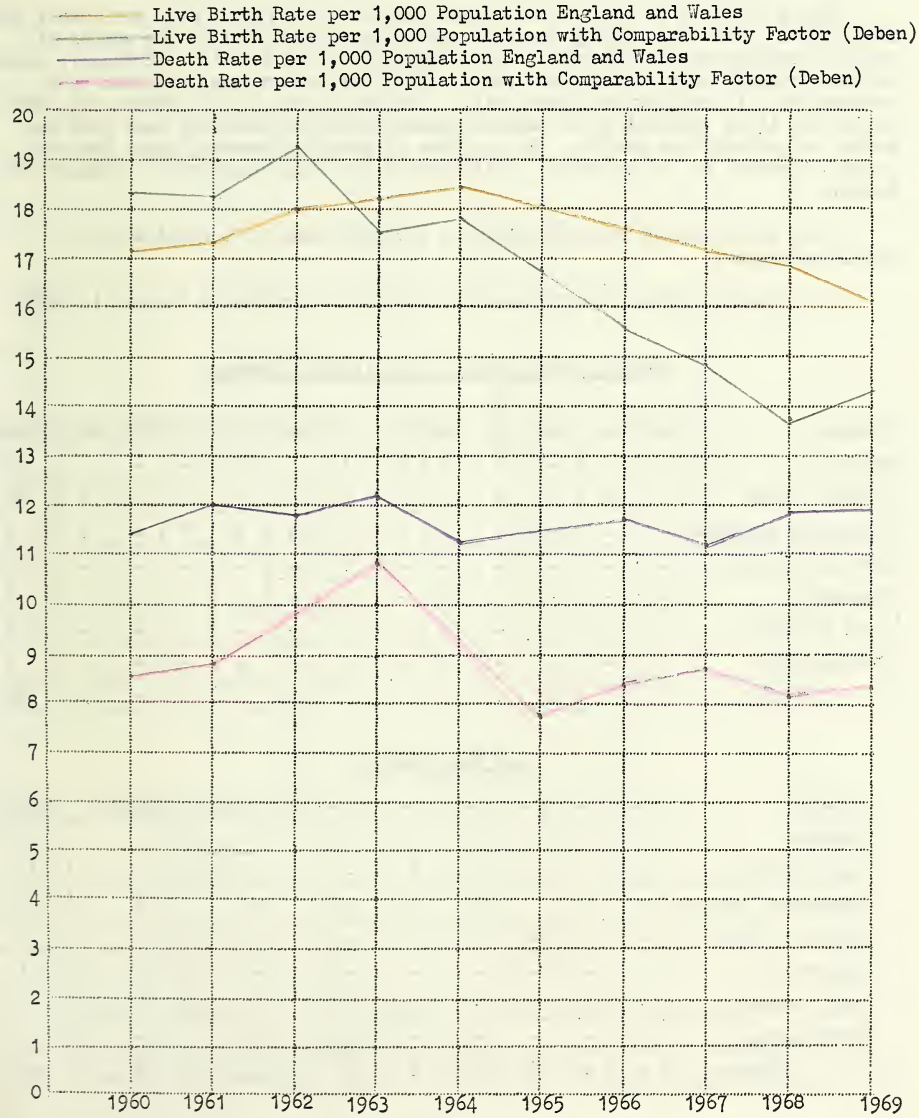
Causes of Death in Infants under 1 year

Disease	1 - 7 days	1wk. - 1 mnth	1 - 6 mnths	over 6 mnths
Respiratory Disease	2	-	-	-
Cerebral Haemorrhage	1	-	-	-
Liver Failure	-	-	1	-
Uncertified	-	-	1	-
Totals:	3	-	2	-

Causes of Death

Code No.		Male	Female	Total
B18	Other Infective and Parasitic Diseases	1	-	1
B19(2)	Malignant Neoplasm, Oesophagus	-	2	2
B19(3)	Malignant Neoplasm, Stomach	8	3	11
B19(4)	Malignant Neoplasm, Intestine	6	5	11
B19(6)	Malignant Neoplasm, Lung, Bronchus	14	2	16
B19(7)	Malignant Neoplasm, Breast	-	9	9
B19(9)	Malignant Neoplasm, Prostate	5	-	5
B19(10)	Leukaemia	1	-	1
B19(11)	Other Malignant Neoplasms	5	6	11
B20	Benign and Unspecified Neoplasms	1	-	1
B21	Diabetes Mellitus	1	-	1
B46(1)	Other Endocrine etc. Diseases	-	2	2
B23	Anaemias	1	-	1
B46(3)	Mental Disorders	1	-	1
B46(4)	Other Diseases of Nervous System, Etc.	1	2	3
B26	Chronic Rheumatic Heart Disease	-	5	5
B27	Hypertensive Disease	2	5	7
B28	Ischaemic Heart Disease	61	42	103
B29	Other forms of Heart Disease	9	11	20
B30	Cerebrovascular Disease	16	37	53
B46(5)	Other Diseases of Circulatory System	13	13	26
B31	Influenza	2	1	3
B32	Pneumonia	16	20	36
B33(1)	Bronchitis and Emphysema	10	3	13
B46(6)	Other Diseases of Respiratory System	1	1	2
B36	Intestinal Obstruction and Hernia	-	2	2
B46(7)	Other Diseases of Digestive System	1	1	2
B38	Nephritis and Nephrosis	3	1	4
B39	Hyperplasia of Prostate	1	-	1
B46(8)	Other Diseases, Genito-Urinary System	1	1	2
B46(10)	Diseases of Musculo-Skeletal System	1	1	2
B42	Congenital Anomalies	1	-	1
B42	Birth Injury, Difficult Labour, Etc	-	2	2
B45	Symptoms and Ill Defined Conditions	1	1	2
BE47	Motor Vehicle Accidents	3	1	4
BE48	All Other Accidents	4	4	8
BE49	Suicide and Self Inflicted Injuries	1	1	2
BE50	All Other External Causes	-	1	1
		192	185	377

Graphic Comparison of Birth and Death Rates per 1,000 Population over 10 years - as Compared with England and Wales.



NOTIFIABLE DISEASE

With a total of 44 notifications received the 1969 figures were the lowest for many years. This was largely due to a rather unexpected fall in the number of cases of measles during the year. This disease, as the Council will recall, comes in waves roughly every second year but in 1969 this pattern was disturbed by a continuation of the previous years fall. The reason for this is rather difficult to find as it is doubtful if the measles immunisation campaign can have gone far enough to produce this result. At the time of writing, however, there has been a sharp increase in the number of notifications and this would tend to confirm the doubts.

Other notifications related mainly to isolated cases of infection or to family outbreaks.

The appended tables show the details relating to notifiable disease in 1969.

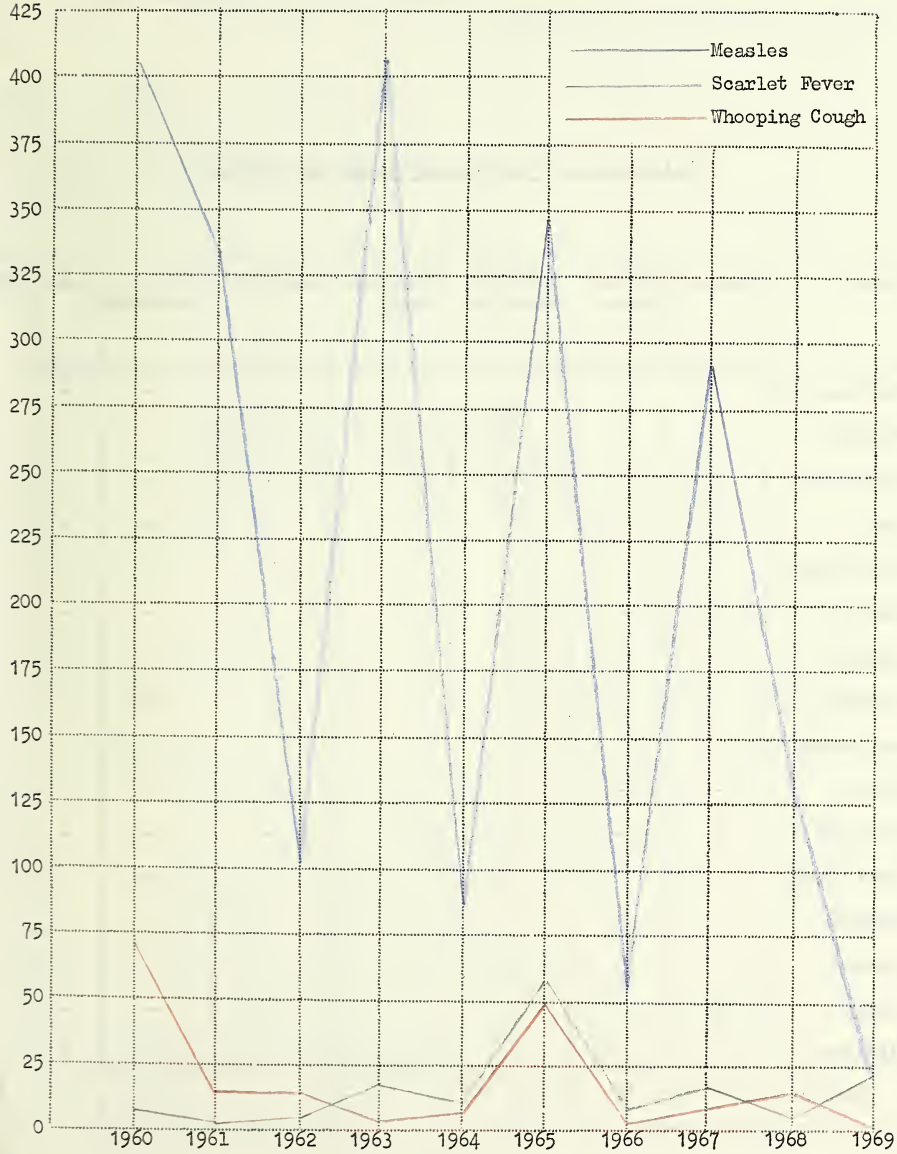
Monthly notification of Notifiable Disease

Disease	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apl	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Total
Measles	4	1	-	1	1	4	1	4	1	-	-	-	17
Scarlet Fever	2	4	2	-	-	1	1	-	-	2	-	4	16
Infective Jaundice	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	2	1	-	1	7
Whooping Cough	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	1
Dysentery	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Food Poisoning	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Tuberculosis	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Totals:	7	5	2	1	3	5	3	7	3	3	-	5	44

Age Distribution

Disease	0 -	1 -	3 -	5 -	10 -	15 -	25 & Over	Unknown	Total
Measles	1	4	3	6	1	1	-	1	17
Scarlet Fever	-	-	2	13	1	-	-	-	16
Infective Jaundice	-	-	1	3	-	-	2	1	7
Whooping Cough	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	1
Dysentery	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1
Food Poisoning	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1
Tuberculosis	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1
Totals:	1	4	6	23	2	1	3	4	44

The Annual Fluctuation of Measles, Scarlet Fever and Whooping Cough



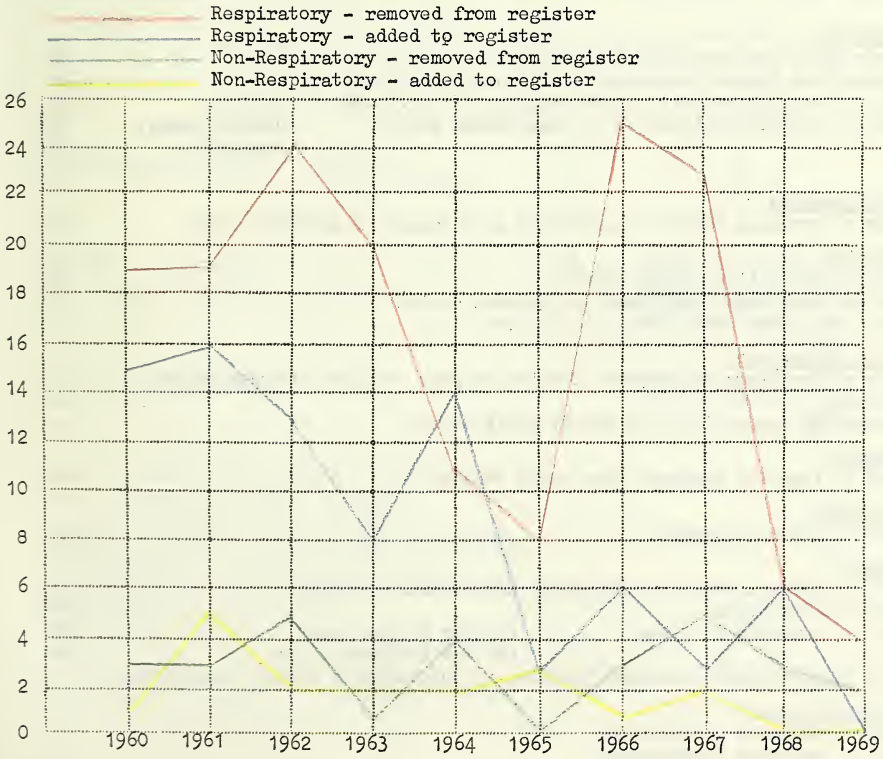
Distribution of Infectious Disease by Parishes

Parish	Measles	Scarlet Fever	Infective Jaundice	Whooping Cough	Dysentery	Food Poisoning	T.B.	Total
Bealings, Lt.	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	1
Bredfield	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	2
Bucklesham	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	2
Burgh	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Grundisburgh	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Kirton	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	2
Kesgrave	4	1	2	-	-	-	-	7
Levington	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Martlesham	1	1	-	-	-	1	-	3
Nacton	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1
Newbourne	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Purdis Farm	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	1
Rushmere	1	2	-	1	1	-	-	5
Trimley	2	5	5	-	-	-	-	12
Ufford	2	1	-	-	-	-	-	3
Witnesham	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Totals:	17	16	7	1	1	1	1	44

Notifiable Disease - Tuberculosis

	Respiratory		Non-Respiratory		Total
	M.	F.	M.	F.	
Number on Register at 1st January, 1969	37	37	16	21	111
Number notified during the year	-	-	-	-	-
Number restored to register after removal in a previous period	-	-	-	-	-
Number other than by notification	-	-	-	-	-
Number removed from Register during the year	2	2	1	1	6
Number remaining on 31st December, 1969	35	35	15	20	105

Analysis of cases added and removed from the Register over 10 years



HOUSING

Summary of the position with regard to housing is shown below. There it will be seen that while the Council has given every encouragement to building of fresh houses they have also encouraged and helped private owners to improve and rehabilitate sub-standard dwellings.

The use of caravans for holiday and residential purposes is a factor which we have to recognise increasingly and too much attention cannot be paid to the planning, the organisation and the supervision of proposed caravan sites. On the whole caravan sites have presented little cause for complaint or annoyance in this District. Indeed, in some cases the proprietors have shown both imagination and understanding in organising and equipping their sites. Inevitably, however, there are one or two exceptions to this.

The problem of itinerant caravan dwellers or gipsies is one which we have had experience but perhaps not to the same extent as many other authorities. It is now the responsibility of the County Council to designate sites for the use of itinerants. Such a measure should diminish the unfortunate tendency to regard these people as undesireable and to be moved on whenever they settle.

Statistics		
Private dwellings completed during 1969		92
Number of new houses completed by L.A. during the year		20
Total of post war Council Houses completed to 31.12.69		1,240
Number of properties improved by Improvement Grants:	Discretionary:	20
	Standard:	74
Housing Repairs		
Number of dwelling houses remedied fit as a result of informal action		37
Demolition		
Number of demolition orders secured		16
Number of dwellings demolished by informal action		6
Number demolished under demolition orders		2
Closing Orders etc.		
Number of dwellings in respect of which or part of which closing orders were made		2
Undertakings accepted not to re-let unfit houses		-
Rehousing		
Number of families rehoused from unfit houses		6
Inspections		
Number of houses inspected		1,276
Caravans		
Number of sites licensed (Individual, Residential, Holiday)		26
Number of inspections		118
Number of caravans on sites:	(a) for Holiday use	275
	(b) for Residential use	296
Number of prosecutions secured (Section 1, Unauthorised sites - residential)		1
Disinfection etc		
Number of premises disinfected		3
Number of premises disinfested		5

WATER SUPPLY

Although the Council is no longer the water authority it is only right that we should continue to sample the water not only from private but from main supplies as well.

During 1969 samples from private supplies totalled 137 while those from public supplies numbered 76. The results of these investigations are given in the table below.

The examination of well waters for nitrate is a special measure which we have carried out ever since the possibility of this substance giving rise to serious health hazards in young infants was discovered. The number of samples for this purpose, however, are growing fewer each year as more and more households go over to mains water.

(a) Mains supplies		Number of samples
Deben R.D.	Eastern Area (Pettistree Bores)	9
	S.W. Area (Tuddenham Springs & Bores mixed)	13
	N. Regional (Tuddenham Bores)	33
	Woodbridge	5
	Felixstowe	16
		76
(b) Private supplies -	Examined	59
	Repeat samples	78
		137

Results of Analyses	Bacteriological Examination	
(a) Samples from Mains supplies	Satisfactory	72
	Unsatisfactory	4
		76
(b) Private supplies	Satisfactory	101
	Unsatisfactory	36
		137

Nitrate and Bacteriological Examination	
Total number of supplies sampled	10
Satisfactory Bacteriologically and Nitrate	5
Unsatisfactory Bacteriologically and Nitrate	2
Unsatisfactory Bacteriologically only	2
Unsatisfactory Nitrate only	1

Safe Nitrate	7
Unsafe Nitrate	3

MEAT INSPECTION

Carcase and Offal inspected and condemned in whole or in part

	Cattle excluding cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs
Number killed	303	-	-	25	642
Number inspected	303	-	-	25	642
Whole carcases condemned:					
Tuberculosis	-	-	-	-	-
Other causes	-	-	-	-	1
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned:					
Tuberculosis	-	-	-	-	2
Other causes	35	-	-	-	76

Method of disposal of condemned meat: Industrial processing

Total inspections for five years: 32,714

1965	1966	1967	1968	1969
20,176	9,238	1,233	1,097	970

Unsound Food Surrendered or Condemned

Item	Cwts.	lbs.
Meat at Slaughterhouses	7	77
Meat at Retail Shops		5
Cooked Meat and Meat Products		2
Fish (Fresh)		35
* Frozen Foods	2	20
Total:	10	27

* Condemned due to refridgeration breakdown.

An interesting complaint regarding the condition of a bread loaf was brought to the Department. On cutting the loaf it was found that the interior was infected with a bright pink mould, a most unusual feature. Investigation identified the mould as monilia which is usually associated with rotting vegetation but the spores of which may be airborne. Discussion with the bakery failed to give any clear explanation of the means by which this loaf became infected. The need for strict attention to the hygiene handling of bread was emphasised.

THE OFFICES, SHOPS AND RAILWAY PREMISES ACT, 1963

TABLE A

Registration and General Inspections

	Number of premises registered during the year	Total number of registered premises at end of year	Number of registered premises receiving a general inspection during the year
Offices	2	26	21
Retail Shops	4	53	48
Wholesale Shops, Warehouses	-	1	1
Catering Establishments open to the Public, Canteens	1	15	13
Fuel Storage Depots	1	2	2
Totals:	8	97	85

TABLE B

Number of visits of all kinds by Inspectors to registered premises 137

TABLE C

Analysis of persons employed in registered premises by workplace

Class of Workplace	Number of persons employed
Offices	190
Retail Shops	160
Wholesale Departments, Warehouses	5
Catering Establishments open to the Public	92
Canteens	14
Fuel Storage Depots	6
Total:	467
Total Males:	209
Total Females:	258

TABLE F

Inspectors

Number of inspectors appointed under Section 52(1) or (5) of the Act 3

Number of other staff employed for most of their time on work in connection with the Act Nil

FACTORIES ACT, 1961

Part 1 of the Act

1. Inspections for the purpose of provisions as to health (including inspections made by Public Health Inspectors)

Premises	No. on Register	Number of		Occupiers prosecuted
		Inspections	Notices	
Factories in which sections 1,2,3,4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	3	6	-	-
Factories not included in (1) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	87	48	-	-
Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding outworkers premises)	52	51	-	-
Totals:	142	105	-	-

2. Cases in which defects were found

Particulars	Number of cases in which defects were found				Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted
	Found	Remedied	Referred		
			to H.M. Inspector	by H.M. Inspector	
Want of cleanliness (s.1)	1	1	-	-	-
Sanitary Conveniences (s.7)					
(a) Insufficient	10	9	-	1	-
(b) Defective Lighting	3	3	-	-	-
(c) Cleanliness	5	5	-	-	-
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to out-work)	-	-	-	-	-
Totals:	19	18	-	1	-

Part VIII of the Act

OUTWORK

(Sections 133 and 134)

Nature of Work	Section 133			Section 134		
	Nature of outworkers in August list required by Section 133 (1) (c)	No. of prosecutions for failure to supply lists	No. of cases of default in sending lists to the Council	No. of instances of work in unwholesome premises	Notices served	Prosecutions
Wearing Apparel: Making etc.	2	-	-	-	-	-
Wearing Apparel: Cleaning and Washing	-	-	-	-	-	-
Other Work	-	-	-	-	-	-
Totals:	2	-	-	-	-	-

RODENT CONTROL

	Type of Property	
	Non-Agricultural	Agricultural
Total number of properties (including nearby premises) inspected following notification	1,436	38
Number infested by (i) Rats	871	38
(ii) Mice	42	None
Total number of properties inspected for rats and/or mice for reasons other than notification	475	136
Number infested by (i) Rats	315	56
(ii) Mice	None	None

Summary of Visits made by Public Health Inspectors

	1968	1969
Infectious Disease	309	182
Drainage	1,219	728
Houses inspected	187	37
Revisits and miscellaneous visits other than inspections	198	184
Housing - General survey	714	1,276
Food premises	474	425
Food Hygiene (Mobile Shops & Delivery Vehicles)	61	46
Food Inspection and Sampling	62	46
Meat Inspection and Meat Staining & Sterilisation Regs.	142	172
Water Supply	504	340
Refuse Collection and Disposal	905	794
Nuisances	266	232
Offices, Shops and Railway Premises Act	142	137
Factories Act (including outworkers)	113	62
Factories Act - Building Sites	83	54
Caravan Sites	121	118
Prevention of Damage by Pests Act	70	42
Petroleum Spirit Regulations	47	77
Noise Abatement	50	23
Animal Boarding Establishments	5	13
Verminous Premises	4	3
Agriculture, Health, Safety and Welfare Provisions	2	14
Rag, Flock and Other Filling Materials Act	1	-
Clean Air Act	6	25
Civic Amenities Act	70	17
Public Health Act, Section 60 (Means of Escape in case of Fire)	-	12
Pet Animals Act	-	4
Burial Act	-	1
	5,755	5,062